

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A mat device having a first and second surface which, in an open orientation, includes a generally elongate portion which is adapted to engage with a removable fabric mat on the first surface, the mat device further includes side storage portions having pocket devices for item storage which, in this open orientation, extend laterally from and at least partially along the length of the lengthwise sides of the elongate portion, the arrangement being such that the mat device can be folded and fastened in a closed orientation into a portable bag, the device being provided with handle means.
2. A mat device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle means is associated with the second surface.
3. A mat device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the mat device has a closed orientation in which it is folded to form a portable bag with the side storage portions folded across and attached to one and other over the elongate portion, and opposing ends of the elongate portion folded over the side storage portions and connected to one and other with fastening means.
4. A mat device as claimed in claim 3 wherein a first end of the elongate portion folds and engages with fastening means on the attached side portions and the first end of the elongate portion to form a front face of a bag having an open upper surface.

5. A mat device as claimed in claim 4 wherein an opposing second end of the elongate portion can fold over the front face and be fastened thereto with fastening means, such that a cover providing closure for the portable bag is provided.
6. A mat device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 5 in which the fastening means are snap lock devices which can easily be opened and closed.
7. A mat device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the handle means is a handle attached to an upper surface of the bag in the closed orientation of the mat device.
8. A mat device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 7 wherein the mat device in its closed orientation is provided with back straps such that it can be carried as a knapsack.
9. A mat device as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 wherein storage pocket devices are provided on the front face of the portable bag of the device in its closed orientation.
10. A mat device as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the mat in its closed orientation is provided with detachable accessories for holding baby bottles and the like.

11. A mat device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the detachable accessories are on at least one side of the portable bag.
12. A mat device substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 22 September 2004 (22.09.04);
claims 1 is amended; claims 2 - 12 remains unchanged (1 page)]

1. A mat device having a first and second surface which, in an open orientation, includes a generally elongate portion which is adapted to engage with a removable fabric mat on the first surface, the mat device further includes side storage portions having pocket devices for item storage which, in this open orientation, extend laterally from and at least partially along the length of the lengthwise sides of the elongate portion, the arrangement being such that the mat device can be folded into a bag which is accessible through an upper open surface and fastenable in a closed orientation into a portable bag, the device being provided with handle means.
2. A mat device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle means is associated with the second surface.
3. A mat device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the mat device has a closed orientation in which it is folded to form a portable bag with the side storage portions folded across and attached to one and other over the elongate portion, and opposing ends of the elongate portion folded over the side storage portions and connected to one and other with fastening means.
4. A mat device as claimed in claim 3 wherein a first end of the elongate portion folds and engages with fastening means on the attached side portions and the first end of the elongate portion to form a front face of a bag having an open upper surface.